

REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully reviewed. No claim is allowed. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16-20 and 28-30 presently appear in this application and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-5, 10-16 and 28-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. While applicant is not conceding to the examiner's position in this rejection because applicant still believes the present specification is enabling for the full scope of the presently claimed invention, applicant has now, without prejudice and for the purposes of business strategy, limited the scope of the rejected claims to *Staphylococcus aureus* as the bacterial pathogen and to c-di-GMP. Thus, in view of the examiner's comments in the rejection, the amendments to the rejected claims to limit to c-di-GMP and to *S. aureus* (recited in dependent claims 3, 7 and 15, now cancelled) obviate this rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-21 and 28-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. While applicant is also not

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conceding to the examiner's position in this rejection because applicant still believes that the present specification provides adequate written description, applicant has now, without prejudice and for the purpose of business strategy, limited the scope of the rejected claims to *Staphylococcus aureus* as the bacterial pathogen and to c-di-GMP. Thus, according to the examiner's comments in the rejection, the amendments to the rejected claims to limit to *S. aureus* and to c-di-GMP obviate this rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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